CHAIRPERSON Allan O'Shea VICE-CHAIRPERSON Edward Haik

**Manistee County Board of Commissioners** 

Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

Ken Hilliard Ervin Kowalski Jim Krolczyk Glenn Lottie Carl Rutske

CLERK
Marilyn Kliber
(231) 723-3331
CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR
Thomas Kaminski
(231) 398-3500

DRAFT

#### POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, October 2, 2009 10:30 A.M. Courthouse & Government Center Board of Commissioner's Room

#### REPORT

Members Present: Carl Rutske, Chairperson, Edward Haik and Allan O'Shea

Others Present: Thomas Kaminski, County Controller/Administrator; Ford Stone,

Prosecuting Attorney; and Karen Molby, Personnel

Officer/Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M.

## ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Ms. Molby requested the Committee's direction for the 2009 Employee Recognition Banquet. Information regarding previous years' banquets was presented along with the current balance in the Employee Training Fund after existing commitments are paid. The Committee expressed their concerns regarding budget constraints and various options were discussed. After lengthy discussion,

Mr. O'Shea recommended that because of the serious budget constraints faced by the County, the 2009 Employee Recognition Banquet take place on the same day as the December County Board meeting (Tuesday, December 15, 2009) at the First Congregational Church with the Board supplying pizza and beverages for the same and that the lunch hour be extended by one-half hour that day, or from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. No alternative recommendation was proposed.

Policy Committee Friday, October 2, 2009 Page 2

The Committee reviewed an Application for Education Assistance from the Manistee County Education Fund submitted by Ford Stone, Prosecuting Attorney, on behalf of Julie Modjeski, Legal Assistant. Ms. Modjeski is seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Management with an anticipated completion date in 2010/2011. It was explained that the funds being requested were to pay for classes taken in May 2009 and July 2009. Mr. Stone was reminded that the Education Fund Policy requires that applications be submitted to the Policy Committee prior to participation in a class. Mr. Stone indicated that he thought he had requested that he be placed on the May Policy Committee Agenda, and that the June, July and August Policy Committee meetings were cancelled. It was explained that the Board approved Ms. Modjeski's previous request for Education Fund dollars and the Prosecuting Attorney's Contingency Fund has paid for some of her classes also, therefore, this was not the initial request. After lengthy review and discussion, the following recommendations were made:

Mr. Rutske recommended approval to reimburse Julie Modjeski for up to \$4,102.00 for the July 2009 term for education expenses toward obtaining a Bachelor's Degree Business Administration with proper written evidence of her grades with funds for the same being paid out of the Education Fund. No alternative recommendation was proposed.

Mr. Rutske recommended approval to reimburse Julie Modjeski for up to \$3,630.00 for the May 2009 term for education expenses toward obtaining a Bachelor's Degree Business Administration with proper written evidence of her grades with funds for the same being paid out of the Education Fund, and further stated that this was being recommended because even though the Prosecuting Attorney did not have the proper application submitted in time, Ms. Modjeski is in the process of obtaining this degree and has previously received funds from the Education Fund toward the same. No alternative recommendation was proposed.

Policy Committee Friday, October 2, 2009 Page 3

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

The Committee reviewed several Resolutions from other Counties. All of the Resolutions will be presented to the County Board at the October meeting for action, if any. (APPENDIX A)

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.		
	Carl Rutske, Chairperson	
	Edward Haik, Commissioner	
	Allan O'Shea, Commissioner	

## APPENDIXA



# Oceana County BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County Building P.O. Box 31 Hart, Michigan 49420



# RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT THAT THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REMAIN A STAND-ALONE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Moved by Mr. Malburg and seconded by Ms. Kolbe to go on record strongly opposing any effort that may attempt to merge the Michigan Department of Agriculture with any other State department and that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners emphasizes that the Michigan Department of Agriculture should remain a stand-alone department of the State of Michigan.

Further, copies of this Resolution are to be forwarded to Governor Granholm, Senator Van Woerkom, Representative Hansen, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other 82 Michigan County Clerks.

Roll call vote: Malburg, yes; Kolbe, yes; Byl, yes; Brown, yes; Powers, yes; Simon, yes; and, Van Sickle, yes. Motion carried.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

The undersigned, being the Clerk of Oceana County, does hereby certify that on the 10th day of September, 2009, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners did adopt the above Resolution at its Regular Meeting.

Rebecca J. Griffin Glerk

Oceana County
Board of Commissioners

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# Oceana County BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County Building P.O. Box 31 Hart, Michigan 49420



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

September 15, 2009

Governor Jennifer Granholm PO Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Michigan Department of Agriculture

Dear Governor Granholm:

Responding to information that an effort may be underway to merge the Michigan Department of Agriculture with another State department, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners, at its Regular Meeting of Thursday, September 10, 2009, went on record strongly opposing such an effort.

We implore you to support the Oceana County Board of Commissioners in opposing the merger as agriculture is big business in the State of Michigan and maintaining the Department of Agriculture as a stand-alone department will assist in keeping this distinction.

According to a February 2009 report from Michigan State University (MSU), there is at least one bright spot in Michigan's battered economy – the food and agriculture business. Agriculture, Michigan's second-largest, industry experienced a 12 percent growth in 2007, the year the study was conducted.

The MSU study, "Second Interim Update on the Economic Impact of Michigan's Agri-Food and Agri-Energy System," considered economic contributions from agriculture, food and related industries, including nursery, turf grass, ethanol, ornamental plants and food processing.

Agriculture is a force for economic stability in Michigan, with yearly economic impact estimated to be \$71.3 billion, on the basis of data from 2007. This represents a \$7.6 billion increase from the \$63.7 billion impact projected in an analysis of 2006 data released last year.

Michigan's agri-food system represents almost 20 percent of the state's overall economic engine, making it the second largest industry in Michigan, and it employs a quarter of the state's work force.

The study also showed the agricultural economy expanding at a rate more than five times faster than the growth rate of the general economy (11.9 percent versus 2 percent) between 2006 and 2007. Evidence further suggested that employment in the agri-food system has increased since the last economic census data was made available in 2004.

The last analysis showed Michigan's agri-food system accounting for 1.05 million jobs, both directly and indirectly. Updated job figures will not be available until 2010, but signs point to job growth, putting Michigan jobs related to agri-food well over 1 million.

To reiterate, agriculture is big business in Michigan as clearly reflected in the MSU study. The Oceana County Board of Commissioners feels it is imperative that the Department of Agriculture remain as a stand-alone department in order to maintain and improve agriculture in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Oceana County

**Board of Commissioners** 

Mr. Gerald L. Malburg, Commissioner

arry Byl, Commissione

James E. Brown, Commissioner

Cc:

Senator Gerald Van Woerkom

Senator Goeff Hansen

Mr. Thomas Hickson, Director of Legislative Affairs, Michigan Association of Counties

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Ms. Rebecca Griffin, Oceana County Clerk

File

# **Journal**

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## Cherry: New super department to include DNR, DEQ, Agriculture

By JOHN PEPIN Journal Staff Writer

POSTED: September 3, 2009

MARQUETTE - Gov. Jennifer Granholm is expected to issue an executive order this fall combining the departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality and Agriculture.

Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr. discussed the move during an interview with The Mining Journal in Marquette this week. In Granholm's State of the State address earlier this year, the governor tapped Cherry to lead an initiative to streamline state government and reduce the number of state departments.

"I don't want to be held to an exact date, but I'm kind of seeing that this fall there will be an executive order out that will combine the three departments," Cherry said. "There'll be somebody named to oversee the implementation of that."

Cherry heads a workgroup, which has been active for several months, comprised of staff from the executive office and state departments, in addition to academic resources provided by the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

Through town hall meetings, including one in Escanaba Wednesday, Cherry has been soliciting public input on seven core functions of state government identified by the work group.

#### **Article Photos**



Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr. discussed streamlining and consolidation of state government in Marquette and Escanaba this week. The process is hoped to be completed by the end of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's term. (Journal photo by John Pepin)

Each function would be delegated to one state department. The first attempt in the realignment process is expected to be the DNR, DEQ and agriculture merger, with more consolidation efforts accelerating after that, Cherry said.

"Probably, first out of the box, I would suspect, we're kind of looking at dealing with the Department of Natural Resources, DEQ, maybe the department of Ag," Cherry said. "If you begin to look what's underneath those agencies, the activities are all very similar. And what those programs do, they protect and enhance our interaction with our natural environment for the purposes of living and working here in Michigan."

With that shared focus as the common denominator, each program under those departments will be scrutinized to see if it relates to that kind of function, he said.

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"You find so much interaction there, to have an artificial distinction there between agriculture, environmental protection and natural resource management is pretty artificial," Cherry said. "None of those things can be done very easily without some sort of collaboration within those three agencies. So you're better off making sure that they're all focused on the same mission. It shouldn't be three contradictory missions, it should be one mission and bringing all that expertise to bear to advance that mission."

Cherry said a governor's executive order could be overturned by the state Legislature, but only requires the governor's signature to implement. Cherry said former Gov. John Engler basically used the same process to create the DEQ in 1995 when he split away environmental regulatory programs from the DNR.

Overall, Cherry said the aim of consolidation and realignment is to make government more effective.

"We've got 18 departments now, each department has got its own budgeting process, its own public information process, its own lobbyist, and if you begin to consolidate departments, there is some of that (which) is duplicative and we can begin to pare back some things," Cherry said. "I'm not saying that to suggest this is an answer to the budget process, but it does get us a little bit more focused and more aligned with what people expect us to do and in doing so, we can probably become a little leaner and a little more flexible."

Cherry said there will likely be some budget implications through the process, that's not the primary force driving the process.

"It's just a recognition that the world has changed. For Michigan our economy has changed dramatically," Cherry said. "Michigan going forward is going to be different than Michigan in the past."

Cherry likened the situation to a 1959 Cadillac El Dorado going down the highway, "great car, beautiful fins."

"But when you begin to look at it, there's no seat belts, no air bags, it may not be power steering or power brakes, it really belongs in a museum, well when you think about it, Michigan is a government designed in the 1950s."

Cherry said the hope is to have state government consolidated and realigned by the end of Granholm's term.

Subscribe to The Mining Journal

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
SHERIFF DEPARTMENT-OPPOSITION TO CURRENT LEIN FUNDING FORMULA

whereas, initially the Law Enforcement Information Network system (the mainframe, data transmission lines and the terminals) were owned and maintained by the State; and

whereas, at that time no revenue generating programs existed to offset the expense of the LEIN system; and

WHEREAS, the formula to fund the cost of the system was developed in the 1970s; and

whereas, the formula allocated two-thirds of the annual cost of the system to the State and one-third of the annual cost of the system to local units of government; and

whereas, although the system has changed substantially since that time because the local units of government now own, operate and maintain their own record management systems and the LEIN system now serves essentially as a pass through, the funding formula enacted in the 1970s has remained constant; and

WHEREAS, new CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Systems)
legislation, Senate Bill 648, enacted in 2005 expanded and
combined the role and definition of the previous LEIN and AFIS
Boards to include LEIN, AFIS and other information systems
related to criminal justice and law enforcement such as I-CHAT
and Sex Offender Registration, of which local units of

government contribute an estimated seventy (70%) to eighty (80%) percent of the data; and

whereas, as indicated in the Michigan State Police budget, the CJIS system now produces an estimated eleven million dollars in total revenue from programs such as I-CHAT, the Sex Offender Registration, and fingerprinting services; and

whereas, in the spring of 2008 the CJIS Policy Board agreed in principle to cover the *validated deficit* for LEIN operation for 2008 and 2009 through a fee structure; and

whereas, the validated deficits and projected revenues information requested was never provided to the CJIS Policy Board's satisfaction, and then Policy Board, which included multi-discipline/multi-profession representatives from the courts, prosecutors, local police, sheriffs, MSP and other groups, was subsequently abolished by Governor Granholm; and

whereas, following abolishment of the CJIS Policy Board County officials received no official notification, but were told of the possible re-institution of LEIN agency fees, and they were told that the fees would not be retroactive; and

whereas, the following invoices totaling \$8672.00 for LEIN agency fees from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 were received by Allegan County:

• 551-314600 Sheriff

LEIN Per Capita for Officers \$ 672.00

(\$12.00 each x 56)

	LEIN Station Fee Agency Fee	\$2000.00 \$ 800.00
•	551-314684 Central Dispatch	
	LEIN Station Fee	\$2000.00
	Agency Fee	\$ 800.00
•	551-314851 Prosecuting Attorney	
	Agency Fee	\$ 800.00
•	551-314853 Circuit Court	
	Agency Fee	\$ 800.00
•	551-314854 District Court	
	Agency Fee	\$ 800.00

; and

WHEREAS, the invoices are indeed retroactive;

whereas, despite documented requests from representatives from the counties, to date no response has been received for a validated accounting of LEIN costs and revenues, and for answers to questions such as:

- Why are only State investments considered in calculating the cost of LEIN?
- Why is the entire cost of the mainframe computer charged to LEIN even though it is also used by the State to run other programs unrelated to LEIN?
- Why is the revenue from the sale of information on I-CHAT and other CJIS system programs not included on the balance sheet when determining the cost of LEIN?

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby states its opposition to the current LEIN funding formula and will actively participate in the September 29, 2009 joint informational meeting at the Clinton County Central Dispatch Authority to discuss the issue with the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of

Townships, the Michigan Municipal League, and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners instructs the Budget and Finance Director to place appropriate funds from the Sheriff, Central Dispatch, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Circuit Court, and the District Court, as invoiced for 2009 LEIN fees, in an agency account until such time as the issues regarding the LEIN fees are resolved to all parties satisfaction; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is hereby instructed to send a letter to the Michigan State Police to inform them of this action; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be submitted to Governor Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Michigan State Senators and Representatives serving the residents of Allegan County, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Townships, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association and the other 82 Michigan counties.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY

rece A. Datts , Clerk-Register

APPROVED: September 10, 2009

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources - Sheriff Department
(BK) - Central Dispatch (JG) - Prosecuting Attorney (FA) Circuit Court (MD) - District Court (LL) - Governor
Jennifer Granholm - Michigan House and Senate
Appropriations Committees - Michigan State Senators and
Representatives serving the residents of Allegan County Michigan Association of Counties - Michigan Association of
Townships - Michigan Municipal League - Michigan Municipal
Risk Management Association and the other 82 Michigan
counties